

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 06149 250549Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----044331 250551Z /21

O 250531Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6967
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T AMMAN 06149

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR LEONARD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, MILL, LE, SY, JO
SUBJECT: LEBANON: DISCUSSION WITH DEPFONMIN KADDUR

REF: DAMASCUS 4177

1. BELIEVE REFTEL ACCURATELY REFLECTS HIGHLIGHTS OF CON-
VERSATION WITH KADDUR.
2. BELIEVE, HOWEVER, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR THE RECORD TO
ADD SLIGHT TOUCH OF SHADING TO REPORT ON DISCUSSION OF
PRIVATE MILITIAS. WHILE AGREEING ON THE LONG-TERM DESIR-
ABILITY OF THEIR DISARMAMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH RESTORA-
TION OF GOL AUTHORITY AND INSTRUMENTALITIES, THRUST OF OUR
MESSAGE TO THE SYRIANS WAS THE NECESSITY FOR RESTRAINT.

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CONCEPT OF REDUCTION OF NUMBERS AND CALIBERS OF ARMS IN
BEIRUT AREA, AS SUGGESTED BY THE SECRETARY, WAS DISCUSSED
AS POSSIBLE NEXT STEP IN ARRANGEMENTS TO PREVENT
REPETITION OF LARGE-SCALE CONFLICT. NOTHING WAS SAID THAT
SYRIANS MIGHT INTERPRET AS INDICATING USG WOULD LOOK WITH
FAVOR ON ADF (I.E. SYRIAN) ATTEMPT TO DISARM MILITIAS
FORCIBLY. ON THE CONTRARY, HOWELL STRESSED USG'S CONCERN

AT TIME OF RECENT SHELLING OF UNARMED CIVILIANS AND
ASSOCIATED INCREASE IN REGIONAL TENSIONS. HE POINTED OUT
THAT WE WOULD HAVE SIMILAR HUMANITARIAN AND POLITICAL
PROBLEMS SHOULD SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES RECUR.SUDDARTH

SECRET

NNN

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Draft Date: 25 jul 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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